

Application No. Not Yet Assigned
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Customer No. 28289

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

After the claims, please insert a page containing the Abstract, which is currently amended as follows, and which is attached hereto as a separately typed replacement page.

-- The present invention concerns a method for improving plant growth characteristics, comprising increasing, in a monocotyledonous plant, expression of a nucleic acid encoding an N₊FixN₊HX protein and/or increasing activity of an N₊FixN₊HX protein, wherein said plant is grown under non-salt stress conditions. --